

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) India has granted Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to all our neighbouring countries viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and all these countries except Pakistan have accorded MFN status to India on a reciprocal basis. Government have taken up with Pakistan the issue of their according MFN status to India.

Seizure of Gold

3255. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gold, foreign currency or other contraband articles have been seized from passengers/ aircraft crew members at Calicut Airport during the last three years; and

(b) if so the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The details of contraband goods seized from passengers at Calicut Airport during the last three years are as under:-

Year	Value of Seizure (Rs. in lakhs)		
	Gold	Foreing Currencies	Others
1994-95	172.92	291.39	33.57
1995-96	339.76	130.51	22.85
1996-97	256.42	152.79	2.49
(upto 28.2.97)			

There has been no case of involvement of aircraft crew member of Calicut during the last three years.

[Translation]

Japanese Assistance for Economic Development

3256. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has offered its assistance to India for the economic development of the country;

(b) if so, the details of terms and conditions thereof, and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Japan has offered ¥ 132,746 million for the following 11 projects for 1996-97 OECF loan assistance:-

Projects	(in million Yen)
1. Northern India Transmission System Project	8,497
2. West Bengal Transmission System Project	11,087
3. Umiyam Hydro Power Station Renovation Project	1,700
4. Tuirial Hydro-electric Power Station Project	11,695
5. Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project	19,817
6. Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project	14,760
7. Calcutta Transport Infrastructure Development Project	10,679
8. Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	15,968
9. Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project	13,324
10. Kerala Water Supply Project	11,997
11. Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project	13,222

The rate of interest for projects at S.Nos. 1-7 and 11 is 2.3% per annum while for S.Nos. 8-10 is 2.1% per annum. The repayment period is 30 years with a moratorium of 10 years.

(c) The loan agreements between the Governments of India and Japan for all the above projects were signed on 25.2.1997.

[English]

Joint-Ventures and Investment Agreement with Asian and European Companies

3257. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Commission is launching a new programme "Asia Invest", designed to promote the development of mutually beneficial trading relationship and investment ties between Asia and European companies; and

(b) if so, how far the new scheme is likely to boost Indo-EC trade and promote the establishment of joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. The European Commission is launching a new programme, "Asia Invest" designed to promote development of mutually

beneficial business relationships between Asian and European Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

(b) It is expected that the various initiatives likely to be implemented under the aegis of "Asia Invest" would lead to a large number of contacts between businessmen and economic operators on both sides, which can result in significant improvement in expanding investment and trade cooperation between two sides.

Simplification of Export Promotion Schemes

3258. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently simplified the export promotion schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the view of the export houses were taken in this regard and the reaction of the export houses on simplification of export promotion schemes at present; and

(d) the extent to which exporters have been benefited ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Simplification of Export Policy and Procedures is a continuous process which is undertaken in consultation with the various Export Promotion Councils, concerned administrative Ministries and also keeping in mind the suggestions received from time to time from the trade and industry through their Apex bodies like FIEO, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, CII etc. Some of the significant steps taken in this regard include provision of green channel clearance of export and import consignments to specified categories of exporters, progressive reduction of licensing and other discretionary controls on imports and exports increased delegation of powers for implementing the various export promotion schemes and introduction of computer based operations to expedite various clearances.

The effect of these efforts may be seen in the growth of exports which in absolute terms increased from US \$ 26.33 billion in 1994-95 to US \$ 31.83 billion in 1995-96.

[Translation]

Registration of Cement Companies

3259. SHRI KACHARU BHARU RAUT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cement companies registered in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of cement companies functioning in the country, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) After the delicensing of the cement industry

with effect from the 25th July, 1991, entrepreneurs are required to only file an Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) with the Government of India, subject to locational clearance by the State Government authorities. The State-wise number of IEMs filed during 1994, 1995 and 1996 are given in statement-I.

(b) A statement showing the State-wise distribution of large cement plants functioning in the country is given in statement-II. Apart from these, there are about 310 mini cement plants in the country having a total installed capacity of nine million tonnes. However, State-wise details of these plants are not maintained centrally.

STATEMENT-I

State-wise number of Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEMs) filed during the last three years

State	1994	1995	1996
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	293	468	403
Assam	9	14	6
Bihar	37	53	44
Gujarat	756	1113	694
Haryana	269	425	326
Himachal Pradesh	56	83	42
Jammu & Kashmir	3	18	7
Karnataka	177	235	160
Kerala	51	95	80
Madhya Pradesh	251	368	261
Maharashtra	769	967	736
Meghalaya	1	1	6
Nagaland	1		1
Orissa	20	55	27
Punjab	211	280	187
Rajasthan	241	301	233
Sikkim		1	
Tamil Nadu	498	731	530
Tripura			1
Uttar Pradesh	382	503	520
West Bengal	156	330	232
Arunachal Pradesh	1		
Andaman & Nicobar		1	4
Chandigarh	1	1	9
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	220	202	127
Delhi	90	62	3
Goa	33	63	54
Pondicherry	61	66	55
Daman & Diu	77	66	77
Total	4664	6502	4825